

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P R 191530Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4290

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONGEN BORDEAUX

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SP FR

SUBJECT: FIRST BASQUE TERRORIST KILLING UNDER MONARCHY

REF: A. MADRID 355

B. BORDEAUX 147

SUMMARY: KIDNAPPING OF BASQUE INDUSRTIALISTS SON (REF A)
HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY BOOBY-TRAP KILLING OF CIVIL GUARD
JAN 17 ATTRIBUTED TO ETA ELEMENTS-THE FIRST MURDER BY
TERRORISTS SINCE JUAN CARLOS BECAME KING. FRENCH AND SPANISH
MINISTERS OF INTERIOR (FRAGA) HELD SEVEN HOUR MEETING IN NICE
THE SAME DAY ON PROBLEMS UNDER THEIR MINISTRIES JURISDICTION.
END SUMMARY.

1. A CIVIL GUARD MEMBER WAS KILLED INSTANTLY JAN 17 BY A
BOOBY TRAP BOMB AS HE CONFISCATED A BASQUE SEPARATIST FLAG
NEAR A SMALL TOWN IN GUIPUZCOA PROVINCE. THIS IS THE FIRST
FATAL TERRORIST INCIDENT UNDER THE MONARCHY AND FOLLOWS A
KIDNAPPING IN THE BASQUE PROVINCES LAST
WEEK (REF A). AMCONSUL
BILBAO NOTES PROBABLE REVENGE MOTIVE IN THAT CIVIL GUARD
WAS KILLED VERY NEAR WHERE ANOTHER CIVIL GUARD KILLED AN
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ETA MEMBER DEC 1 AND A YOUTH WHO REFUSED TO STOP FOR

QUESTIONING DEC 8,1975.

2. VICE PRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR FRAGA IRIBARNE MADE AN UNANNOUNCED VISIT TO NICE JAN 17 WHERE HE HELD A SEVEN HOUR MEETING WITH HIS FRENCH COUNTER-PART, MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR PONIATOWSKI. THE GOS HAS BEEN SILENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MEETING BUT, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS OF PONIATOWSKI'S SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW WITH FRENCH TV. BOTH MEN DISCUSSED "CERTAIN GENERAL PROBLEMS WITHIN THEIR MINISTERIAL JURISDICTIONS". PONIATOWSKI DEMURRED WHEN ASKED IF THE BASQUE ISSUE HAD COME UP, BUT DOUBT IT OCCUPIED A CONSIDERABLE PORTION OF THEIR CONVERSATIONS.

3. FROM ALL APPEARANCES, THE NEW GOVT DOES NOT INTEND TO LOSE TIME IN REACHING SOME SORT OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE GOF ABOUT THE HANDLING OF BASQUE TERRORISTS. NOW EXACERBATED BY THE KILLING WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING FRAGA'S VISIT, WHICH HAVE USED FRANCE AS A SAFE-HAVEN, IMMENSELY COMPLICATING SPANISH EFFORTS TO CONTROL THE ETA. JUDGING FROM AMCONGEN BORDEAUX'S REPORT, THERE IS APPARENTLY SOME FEELING IN THE FRENCH BASQUE PROVINCES THAT EXCESSIVELY LIBERAL APPLICATION OF THE RIGHT TO ASYLUM IS COUNTER PRODUCTIVE TO THEIR LOCAL INTERESTS. BOTH THE GOS AND GOF, THEREFORE, MAY HAVE GOOD GROUNDS, PARTICULARLY WITH THE MORE PROMISING OUTLOOK FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE IN SPAIN, TO MORE CLOSELY IN CONTROLLING BASQUE SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES.

4. MEANWHILE, THE ETA OR, PERHAPS AN ETA SPLINTER GROUP, HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO TRY TO PROVOKE RATHER THAN TO ALLOW IT TO FOLLOW UP RECENT OVERTURES ON REGIONAL AUTONOMY. IN THIS TORTURED PHILOSOPHY, THE MORE REPRESSION THE BETTER FOR THE CAUSE OF ULTIMATE REVOLUTION, FRAGA HAS SAID SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE GOVT WILL NOT ALLOW MARGINAL TERRORIST ELEMENTS TO STAND IN ITS WAY IN CARRYING OUT POLITICAL REFORMS. AN UPSURGE IN ETA VIOLENCE WILL TEST THE GOVT'S RESOLVE.
STABLER

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